



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/581,548	06/02/2006	Toshiaki Shimada	740819-1146	6220
78198 7590 02/17/2010				
Studebaker & Brackett PC				
One Fountain Square				
11911 Freedom Drive, Suite 750				
Reston, VA 20190				
EXAMINER				
DIAZ, THOMAS C				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3656				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
02/17/2010		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/581,548

Applicant(s)

SHIMADA, TOSHIAKI

Examiner

THOMAS DIAZ

Art Unit

3656

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 October 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3 and 4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-850)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07/12/2007, 05/23/2007, 06/02/2006

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Species 1 illustrated in figure 2, wherein claims 1, 3, and 4 are readable on the elected species in the reply filed on 10/19/2009 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bausch (USP 4987788).

Regarding claim 1, Bausch discloses a similar device comprising a principal part (fig.2, housing of the actuator 8 and 13) of the device through which a drive shaft (fig.2, 14) is inserted, the drive shaft having a thread groove (fig.2, threads on the drive shaft) in its external surface; a nut (fig.2, 15) provided inside the principal part of the device to engage with the thread groove of the drive shaft; and drive means (fig.2, 16 or 19,20) for rotating the nut around the drive shaft, the drive means rotating the nut to move the drive shaft in an axial direction relative to the principal part of the device (see fig.2),

wherein the inside of the principal part of the device includes rotation speed switching means (see fig.2, 17 and 30 form the rotation speed switching means) for switching the rotation speed of the nut among a plurality of rotation speeds when transmitting a torque from the drive means to the nut,

the nut has an annular part (fig.2, 15) surrounding the drive shaft,

the drive means has an output shaft (fig.2, 26 or 32) through which the drive shaft is inserted, and

the rotation speed switching means includes follower teeth (fig.2, teeth on gear 24) formed by internal teeth provided on an inner periphery of the annular part, driver teeth (fig.2, teeth on 10 that mesh with 24) provided on the outer periphery of the output shaft to mesh with the follower teeth (the teeth are provided in an area that is on an outer periphery of the shaft, since it is not required to be directly on the output shaft), and clutching means (fig.2, 30 are the clutch means) integrally rotatable with the output shaft for switching the connection/disconnection between the output shaft and the nut.

Regarding claim 3, Bausch discloses the drive shaft is located to penetrate through the rotation speed switching means (see fig.2).

Regarding claim 4, Bausch discloses the rotation seed switching means includes a speed reduction mechanism (fig.2, the gearing 24 forms a speed reduction mechanism) for reducing the rotation speed of an output shaft of the drive means.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THOMAS DIAZ whose telephone number is (571)270-5461. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on (571)272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thomas Diaz/
Examiner, Art Unit 3656

/Richard WL Ridley/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3656